

In the Specification

Please rewrite page 3, lines 23-24 of the specification as follows:

mixing at least silicasilicon, silicon nitridecarbide and a pore former;

Please amend Table 1-1 on page 29 of the specification as follows:

Table 1-1

	Ex. 1	Ex. 2	Ex. 3	Ex. 4	Ex. 5	Ex. 6	Ex. 7	Ex. 8	Ex. 9	Ex. 10
Aid (SrCO ₃) (mass %)	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
Pore former (starch) (mass %)	10	10	0	10	10	10	30	40	0	10
Before-nitriding firing of formed body	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Pressure	1.3 Pa 1.3 Pa	[1.3] 1.3 Pa	1.3 Pa	1.3 Pa	Normal	1.3 Pa				
Atmosphere	Ar	Ar	Ar	Ar	Ar (oxygen partial pressure: 10 Pa)	Ar	Ar	Ar	Ar	Ar
Temp.	1450°C	1450°C	1450°C	1450°C	1450°C	1450°C	1450°C	1450°C	1450°C	1450°C
Time	2 hr	2 hr	2 hr	2 hr	2 hr	2 hr				
During-nitriding firing conditions	Normal	Normal	Normal	Normal	Normal	Normal	Normal	Normal	Normal	Normal
Temp. and time	1450°C & 4 hr then 1750°C & 4 hr	1450°C & 4 hr then 1750°C & 4 hr	1450°C & 4 hr then 1750°C & 4 hr	1450°C & 4 hr then 1750°C & 4 hr	1450°C & 4 hr then 1750°C & 4 hr	1450°C & 4 hr then 1750°C & 4 hr	1450°C & 4 hr then 1750°C & 4 hr	1450°C & 4 hr then 1750°C & 4 hr	1450°C & 4 hr then 1750°C & 4 hr	1450°C & 4 hr then 1750°C & 4 hr
Before-nitriding firing and during-nitriding firing (temp. of atmosphere change)	Separate firings (room temp.)	Same firing (1400°C)	Separate firings (room temp.)	Separate firings (room temp.)	Separate firings (room temp.)	Separate firings (room temp.)	Separate firings (room temp.)	Separate firings (room temp.)	Separate firings (room temp.)	Separate firings (room temp.)

Please amend Table 1-2 on page 30 of the specification as follows:

Table 1-2

		Ex. 11	Ex. 12	Ex. 13	Ex. 14
Aid (SrCO ₃) (mass %)		1	3	1	1
Pore former (starch) (mass %)		30	10	10	10
Before-nitriding firing of formed body	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Firing conditions of formed body	Pressure	1.3 Pa [1.3] 1.3 Pa	[1.3] 1.3 Pa	Normal	Normal
Atmosphere	Ar	Ar	Ar (oxygen partial pressure: 10 Pa)	Ar (oxygen partial pressure: 10 Pa)	
Temp.	1450°C	1450°C	1450°C	1450°C	1450°C
Time	2 hr	2 hr	2 hr	2 hr	2 hr
During-nitriding firing conditions	Atmosphere	Normal	Normal	Normal	Normal
Temp. and time	1450°C & 4 hr then 1750°C & 4 hr	1200°C & 12 hr	1450°C & 4 hr	1450°C & 4 hr	
Before-nitriding firing and during-nitriding firing (temp. of atmosphere change)	Separate firings (room temp.)	Separate firings (room temp.)	Separate firings (room temp.)	Same firing (1450°C)	